

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-04 CU-02 /065 W

----- 111417

R 141908Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7090

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 2699

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TD, CH

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' VISIT TO CHINA

1. PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS COMPLETED AN APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL SIX-DAY VISIT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA NOVEMBER 11 WITH THE ISSUANCE OF A JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH INCLUDED PLANS FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES, THE OPENING OF FUNCTIONAL OFFICES IN PORT OF SPAIN AND PEKING, AND INCREASED ACTIVITY IN TRADE AND OTHER AREAS. DR. WILLIAMS WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THIS SECOND LEG OF HIS CURRENT INTERNATIONAL TRIP BY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ERROL MAHABIR, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PERMANENT SECRETARY FRANK ABDULAH, SPECIAL MEDICAL OFFICER COURTENAY BARTHOLOMEW, AND HIS DAUGHTER ERICA. WHILE IN PEKING, DR. WILLIAMS CALLED ON CHAIRMAN MAO AND PREMIER CHOU AND HELD SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WITH VICE-PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KWAN-HUA, THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS PARTY THEN VISITED SHANGHAI

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AND CANTON BEFORE EXITING CHINA VIA HONG KONG.

2. THE COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED THE USUAL REFERENCES TO SUPPORT FOR THE STRUGGLE AGAINST COLONIALISM, EXTERNAL DOMINATION, AND HEGEMONY AND OTHER THIRD WORLD RHETORIC BUT DID NOT MENTION ANY ACCREDITATION OF AMBASSADORS ALTHOUGH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR AND THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO GUYANA HAS MET WITH DR. WILLIAMS IN PORT OF SPAIN. THE MAJOR POINTS CONTAINED IN THE COMMUNIQUE WERE:

- CHINA WILL ACCEPT THREE TRINIDAD STUDENTS TO STUDY CHINESE IN 1975;
- TRINIDAD WILL PROVIDE AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF PLACES IN ITS INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES) FOR CHINESE STUDENTS;
- "APPROPRIATE" FUNCTIONAL (PRESUMABLY TRADE OR PRESS) OFFICES ARE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN EACH OTHER'S CAPITALS;
- TRADE MISSIONS AND EXHIBITIONS ARE TO BE EXCHANGED;
- A CHINESE DELEGATION LED BY VICE MINISTER OF FUEL AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES TANG KE WILL VISIT TRINIDAD EARLY NEXT YEAR; AND
- EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC, AND TECHNOLOGICAL FIELDS IS TO BE DEVELOPED.

3. IN HIS MAJOR PUBLIC SPEECH OF THE VISIT MADE AT A CEREMONIAL DINNER IN PEKING, DR. WILLIAMS RETURNED TO THE THEME OF RACISM WHICH HE RAISED WHILE IN THE UNITED STATES BY INTRODUCING HIMSELF AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN AREA WHOSE DISCOVERY USHERED IN THE WORLD OF COLONIALISM, PRODUCTION OF PLANTATION CROPS BY FORCED LABOR, AND RACISM. HE SAID THE CARIBBEAN HAD BEEN A DEMONSTRATION GROUND OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF "NORDIC CAPITAL DIRECTING BLACK LABOR" AND REFERRED TO CHINA AND TRINIDAD AS THE JOINT VICTIMS OF EUROPEAN COLONIALISM HAVING "MESSED OUT OF THE SAME POT OF INJUSTICE, HUMILIATION, SERVITUDE IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER, AND RACIAL PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION." SIR SOLOMON HOCHOY, THE FORMER T&T GOVERNOR GENERAL WHO IS AN ETHNIC CHINESE, WAS CITED BY DR. WILLIAMS AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY WHICH EXISTS IN THE CARIBBEAN IN "SHARP CONTRAST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO THE SOCIAL REALITIES IN MIXED SOCIETIES IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD." DR. WILLIAMS THEN WENT ON TO PRAISE THE CHINESE FOR THEIR POLICY OF SELF RELIANCE, FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS IN AGRICULTURE FROM WHICH HE SAID HIS COUNTRY HAD MUCH TO LEARN, AND FOR THE CONTRIBUTION WHICH THE CHINESE POPULATION OF TRINIDAD HAD MADE TO THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT. AS A PERSONAL NOTE HE ADDED THAT THE MATERNAL GRANDFATHER OF HIS DAUGHTER ERICA WAS ONE OF THE OLDEST

CHINESE IMMIGRANTS IN TRINIDAD. AT THE SAME DINNER, VICE-PREMIER LI EXPRESSED CHINA'S APPROVAL OF TRINIDAD'S THIRD WORLD STANCE AND ITS THANKS FOR TRINIDAD'S VOTE IN FAVOR OF PRC MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN.

4. COMMENT: THE VISIT DID NOT PRODUCE ANY RADICAL DEPARTURES NOR, WE BELIEVE, WAS IT INTENDED TO DO SO. IT DID SERVE, HOWEVER, TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS BETWEEN TRINIDAD AND THE PRC, TO STRENGTHEN DR. WILLIAMS' CREDENTIALS AS A PROGRESSIVE THIRD WORLD LEADER AND PUT HIM ONE UP ON HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE CARIBBEAN AS THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER FROM THE AREA TO VISIT CHINA. THE VISIT ALSO PROVOKED A REMINDER OF HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED AND HOW FAR ERIC WILLIAMS HAS MOVED IN THE PAST FEW YEARS TOWARD "PROGRESSIVE" NATIONALIST POLICIES WHEN GEORGE WEEKES, A PROMINENT RADICAL LABOR LEADER WHO HAS BEEN IMPRISONED TWICE BY THE GOTT, ANNOUNCED THAT HE INTENDED TO FILE CHARGES AGAINST A MEMBER OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S STAFF AND THE EDITORS OF THE TWO DAILY NEWSPAPERS FOR PRINTING PRESS RELEASES AND PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY IN VIOLATION OF TRINIDAD'S SEDITION LAWS. IN A SIMILAR VEIN, THE LEFT-IST TRANSPORT AND INDUSTRIAL WORKERS UNION SENT A TELEGRAM TO DR. WILLIAMS IN PEKING ASKING HIM TO REMOVE THE BAN ON CHINESE LITERATURE, ESPECIALLY THE "THOUGHTS OF MAO TSE-TUNG," WHEN HE RETURNS. SOME RELAXATION OF CURRENT LEGISLATION BANNING PRC PUBLICATIONS MAY WELL RESULT FROM THE TRIP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, JOINT VENTURES, COMMUNIQUEs, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PORTO02699
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740329-0405
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741143/aaaabkkl.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' VISIT TO CHINA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TD, CH, (WILLIAMS, ERIC)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005